

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Digital Repository

---

Volume 27

Number 3 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.27, no.3

Article 4

---

1947

## Why I Like Dormitory Life

Irene Meyer

*Iowa State College*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Meyer, Irene (1947) "Why I Like Dormitory Life," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 27 : No. 3 , Article 4.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol27/iss3/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).



# Why I Like Dormitory Life

by Irene Meyer

FOR most Iowa State coeds college life is dormitory life. And they love it. They like the activity of living with more than a hundred other women, all pursuing their own interests, choosing their own friends from both inside and outside the dormitory, yet gunning loyally for their own dormitory in any competition.

Dormitory living is modern, convenient, efficient. From her dormitory room a woman has a campus dial phone across the hall, a kitchenette with hot plate down the corridor, rows of showers with hot water just around the corner, special formal closets and trunk closets, irons and ironing boards and sewing machines—all on the same floor. Down in the basement is a large laundry room with lines enough to dry everyone's dainty garments.

Dormitories seem so huge at first. But they grow smaller quickly as the women become acquainted and their rooms furnished in a homelike atmosphere.

Dormitory rooms are large. They have two spacious closets with shelves and shoe racks, two desks and chairs, two beds, an armchair and a chest of drawers with a mirror.

## *Advisors Help*

Dormitory advisors, who are carefully chosen the previous year, help out wherever they're needed. They become friends and counselors who know the customs, rules and traditions at Iowa State.

There is lively competition between the dormitories. Each vies to get as many representatives as possible on all-college boards, bureaus and in Cardinal Guild. The more women there are in a dormitory who know what's doing on campus, the more alert and interested the whole group becomes.

A dormitory woman does her own thinking. She reads and hears opinions from all those with whom she lives without being obligated to agree with any of them. There is logic behind her convictions; therefore people come to rely upon her judgment. She can think things through to her own satisfaction, not worrying whether her opinions fall in line with those of her friends.

No one is required to spend a certain number of hours in activities, but the activities chairmen do keep everyone informed of meetings, openings of positions and how to obtain these positions. Dormitory women enter activities because of a sincere desire for experience in certain fields. Therefore they can be relied upon to accept responsibility.

## *All Kinds of People*

There is little prejudice in a dormitory. These many types of women, who by chance are living together, soon come to like all kinds of people. They learn that the shy girl in the corner room is a whiz at chemistry and makes the best cocoa ever whipped up at a spread. Or they discover that the foreign woman two doors down has the merriest twinkling smile and tells marvelous stories of her unique home life.

Dormitories at Iowa State are beautifully constructed with parlors decorated for entertaining and libraries designed for comfortable reading. There is always a varied supply of magazines and newspapers and a reserve of books borrowed quarterly from the college library.

Dining room etiquette is kept on the Emily Post level. Breakfast is cafeteria style, and the other meals are served family style. Every woman acts as hostess many times a quarter. Occasional formal dinners give valuable background for important appearances after graduation.

## *Firesides, Formals*

Dormitory teas, tea dances, open houses, faculty dinner guests, exchanges, firesides, formals, 5-pound parties, showers all give experience in entertaining and in being entertained. These social functions are held either in the parlors or in the basement recreation rooms.

Food in the dormitories is no hit and miss diet. The menus are worked out carefully far in advance to provide healthy women all the vitamins they need to carry strenuous schedules and zoom right through final week with maximum efficiency.